

(10)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets

(11) Publication number:

**0 141 783
B1**

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication of patent specification: 09.08.89

(51) Int. Cl.⁴: A 61 K 39/395, C 12 N 5/00

(21) Application number: 84810516.9

(22) Date of filing: 25.10.84

(60) Divisional application 88102108 filed on 12.02.88.

(54) Immune response to tumours and viruses induced by anti-idiotypic antibodies.

(30) Priority: 07.11.83 US 549505
07.11.83 US 549506(43) Date of publication of application:
15.05.85 Bulletin 85/20(45) Publication of the grant of the patent:
09.08.89 Bulletin 89/32(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE FR GB IT LI LU NL SE(56) References cited:
EP-A-0 110 706

THE JOURNAL OF IMMUNOLOGY, vol. 133, no. 1, July 1984, pp. 495-501 (US), K. THIELEMANS et al.: "Strategies for production of monoclonal anti-idiotypic antibodies against human B cell lymphomas"

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Courier Press, Leamington Spa, England.

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NATURE, vol. 303, June 16, 1983, pp. 627-629, J.W. FORSTROM et al.: "Immunization to a syngeneic sarcoma by a monoclonal auto-anti-idiotypic antibody"

Description

Technical field

The present invention is directed to the induction of immunological responses to antigens, in particular tumors. More specifically the present invention is directed to the use of anti-idiotypic antibodies to induce such an immunological response, as well as the antibodies and cell lines that produce them.

Background of the invention

The sequence of amino acids in the variable regions of both heavy (V_H) and light (V_L) chains of immunoglobulin (Ig) produces a conformation in the antigen binding site (*i.e.*, paratope) allowing interaction of that antibody with a specific antigen. Injection of Ig into a heterologous host animal will give rise to anti-xenotypic (specific for species), anti-isotypic (specific for Ig class), and anti-idiotypic (specific for antibody variable region) antibodies. Two functional classes of anti-idiotypic antibodies can exist, one of which reacts with the paratope, and another which reacts with the V_H and/or V_L framework (framework determinants). *See generally*, Gēha, (1981) *N. Engl. J. Med.* 305: 25—28; Jerne, (1974) *Ann. Immunol. (Paris)* 125C: 373—389.

Summary of the invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide a method of inducing an immunological response to tumors in particular, solid tumors.

It is also an object of the present invention to employ anti-idiotypic antibodies to produce such an immunological response.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide monoclonal anti-idiotypic antibodies, and immortal B lymphocyte sources for such antibodies, that are useful in the induction of immunological responses to tumors, particularly solid tumors.

These and other objects of the present invention are achieved by one or more of the following embodiments.

In one embodiment, the present invention provides a method of inducing an immunological response to a tumor comprising:

- (a) providing an anti-idiotypic antibody, an epitope identified by said anti-idiotypic antibody being the paratope of an anti-tumor antibody; and
- (b) stimulating in a subject the production of anti-(anti-idiotypic) antibody that identifies an epitope on a tumor cell by administering said anti-idiotypic antibody to said human.

The present invention also provides polyclonal anti-idiotypic antibodies, an epitope identified by said anti-idiotypic antibodies being the paratope of an anti-tumor antibody, substantially free of anti-isotypic antibodies.

In another embodiment, the present invention provides an immortal B lymphocyte that produces an anti-idiotypic antibody, an epitope identified by said anti-idiotypic antibody being the paratope of an anti-tumor antibody. The present invention also provides the monoclonal antibodies produced by the above immortal B lymphocyte substantially free of other antibodies.

Suitable tumors are solid tumors such as solid gastrointestinal tumors. On the administration of the anti-idiotypic antibodies in accordance with the invention, the subject, in particular mammal, more particularly human, is stimulated to produce anti-(anti-idiotypic) antibody that identifies an epitope on a tumor cell.

Detailed description of the invention

The present invention provides a unique approach to cancer therapy. Traditionally approaches in tumor therapy have involved administering anti-tumor antibodies (*i.e.*, antibodies that identify an epitope on a solid tumor cell) to patients in an effort to destroy the tumor. Applicants, however, have discovered that an immunological response to a patient's own tumors can be induced with an antibody that is anti-idiotypic to an antibody that recognizes a tumor. The induction of this immunological response has utility as a therapeutic, and preventative treatment.

Although applicants do not wish to be bound by any particular theory of operability, it is believed that the observed immunological response achieved by the present invention is attributable to an interaction between the anti-idiotypic antibody molecules and the human patient's immune system. The idiotype (*i.e.*, variable) region of the anti-idiotypic antibody molecule contains antigenic determinants (*i.e.*, epitopes) seen as an antigen by the subject. This induces the production of anti-(anti-idiotypic) antibodies by the subject. Within this set of anti-(anti-idiotypic) antibodies are those that are directly complementary to the paratope of the anti-idiotypic antibody. It is further believed that the paratope of the anti-idiotypic antibody presents an "internal" image of the tumor cell identified (*i.e.*, selectively bound) by the idiotype antibody and, therefore, the anti-(anti-idiotypic) antibodies will also bind the tumor. In effect, the present method induces an immunological response to the tumor by presenting an antigen (the paratope of the anti-idiotypic antibody) which is essentially indistinguishable from the tumor to a portion of the patient's resulting antibodies.

Surprisingly, the above method is an effective procedure for controlling tumor growth. Furthermore, it

has several advantages over the more traditional approaches. First, much less foreign antibody need be administered to a patient. Second, the patient's anti-idiotypic response is beneficial rather detrimental to the intended effect. Third, the patient's own antibodies are the anti-tumor antibodies, thus eliminating the necessity of repeated administration of exogenous anti-tumor antibodies. Other advantages will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art.

The idiotypic region of an antibody is defined by individually distinctive antigenic determinants in the variable or idiotype region of the antibody molecule. A portion of these idiotype determinants will be on or closely associated with the paratope of the antibody, while others will be in the framework of the variable region. While each antibody has its own idiotypic region, particular antibodies will be referred to below by the following terms. "Idiotypic antibody" or "Id Ab" refers to an anti-tumor antibody (*i.e.*, the epitope identified by the idiotypic antibody is on a cell of a tumor. "Anti-idiotypic antibody" or "anti-Id Ab" refers to an antibody which identifies an epitope in the variable region of an idiotypic antibody. A portion of such antibodies will identify an epitope that is the paratope of the idiotypic antibody, thus presenting an "internal" image of the epitope identified by the idiotypic antibody on the tumor cell. "Anti-(anti-idiotypic) antibody" or "anti-(anti-Id)Ab" is an antibody that identifies an epitope in the variable region of the anti-idiotypic antibody. A portion of the anti-(anti-idiotypic) antibodies will identify an epitope that corresponds to (i) the paratope of the anti-idiotypic antibody, and (ii) an epitope on a tumor cell.

As stated below, the method of the present invention contemplates administering anti-idiotypic antibody to a host. The anti-idiotypic antibody is administered to the host in any physiologically suitable carrier (*e.g.*, sterile, pyrogen-free physiological saline), the formulations of which are within the skill of the art. The selection of carrier is not critical and the antibody can be administered by any method that introduces the antibody into the circulatory system (*e.g.*, intravenous, intramuscular or subcutaneous injection).

The host may be any mammal, most commonly a human. The amount of antibody administered to a host can vary widely dependent, for example, upon the particular antibody employed and the patient inoculated. It is only necessary that sufficient anti-idiotypic antibody be administered to stimulate the production of anti-(anti-idiotypic) antibodies by the patient's immune system. The amounts of antibody employed, however, need not be very great because only very small amounts are necessary to induce an immunological response. In many cases, a dosage of antibody within the range of a few micrograms to a few milligrams should be sufficient, (*e.g.*, about 50—200 μ g to about 1—5 mg). The determination of an appropriate dosage is readily within the skill of the art.

In one embodiment, the present invention contemplates administering a formulation containing anti-idiotypic antibody to a human patient to produce an immunological response to a tumor *e.g.* a solid tumor (*i.e.* a solid mass of malignant cells such as produced by carcinomas, sarcomas, melanomas etc., as opposed to disperse, circulating malignant cells such as leukemias). In a preferred embodiment, the tumor is a gastrointestinal tumor. As defined above, a subclass of the anti-idiotypic antibody selectively binds to (*i.e.*, identifies) the paratope of an anti-tumor antibody (the idiotypic antibody). Such an antibody recognises an epitope that is the paratope of the corresponding idiotypic antibody.

Anti-idiotypic antibodies, which present internal images of the tumor or virus antigen, can be distinguished from anti-idiotypic antibodies that recognize framework determinants in the variable region of the idiotypic antibody by any of several methods. One method of identifying the desired anti-idiotypic antibodies is a competitive binding assay between the tumor or viral antigen (or hapten if available), the idiotypic antibody and the anti-idiotypic antibody. If the antigen blocks binding of the anti-idiotypic antibody to the idiotypic antibody, the epitope identified by the anti-idiotypic antibody is closely associated with the idiotypic antibody's paratope. Another test is to determine if anti-sera to the anti-idiotypic antibody is also anti-tumor. These and other methods of identifying the appropriate anti-idiotypic antibody are within the skill of the art. In the formulation administered to a host, the inclusion of anti-idiotypic antibodies directed to framework determinants along with the subclass directed to the idiotypic antibody's paratope is acceptable. It is only necessary that the formulation contain the subclass directed to the idiotypic antibody's paratope.

The anti-idiotypic antibody employed can be homologous or heterologous to the host. The preferred antibody for a human is however a human antibody to minimize immunological response to the constant region to the antibody molecule. However, since relatively small doses of anti-idiotypic antibody are required in the present invention, heterologous antibody can be employed (*e.g.*, mouse, rat, goat, rabbit, etc.). In the absence of any serious reaction to heterologous anti-idiotypic antibody, however, such antibody may be preferred due to ease and cost of preparation. Furthermore, polyclonal anti-idiotypic antibodies can be employed as well as monoclonal anti-idiotypic antibodies.

Polyclonal anti-idiotypic antibody can be prepared by conventional methods known in the art. For example, polyclonal anti-Id Ab can be produced by immunizing an animal with a monoclonal anti-tumor antibody (*i.e.*, Id Ab). The immunized animal will produce anti-Id Ab. A subclass of this anti-idiotypic antibody in the anti-sera will identify an epitope that is the paratope of the anti-tumor antibody.

Anti-sera collected from the animal can be purified, for example, by sequential absorption with (i) an immobilized antibody of the same isotype as the monoclonal Id Ab, but different idiotypic region, to remove anti-isotypic antibodies from the anti-sera, and (ii) the immobilized monoclonal Id Ab to remove the anti-Id Ab, a subclass of which will present internal images of the tumor or viral antigen. The anti-Id Ab can then be eluted from the bound monoclonal anti-tumor or viral antibody to provide a solution substantially free of

anti-isotype antibodies. This solution can then be tested for the presence of anti-Id Ab that identifies the paratope of the Id Ab.

Monoclonal anti-idiotypic antibodies substantially free of other antibodies can be isolated from the supernatant of substantially pure cultures of immortal B lymphocytes. The term "immortal B lymphocyte" encompasses any relatively stable, continuous antibody-producing cell that can be maintained in culture for several months (preferably indefinitely), such as hybridomas (somatic cell hybrids of normal and malignant lymphocytes) and normal lymphocytes transformed by virus (e.g., Epstein-Barr virus) or oncogenic DNA. The production of immortal B lymphocytes from normal B lymphocytes that produce anti-idiotypic antibody is within the skill of the art. See, e.g., *Monoclonal Antibodies* (R. H. Kennett, T. J. McKearn & K. B. Bechtol 1980); M. Schreier et al., *Hybridoma Techniques* (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory 1980); *Monoclonal Antibodies and T-Cell Hybridomas* (G. J. Hammerling, U. Hammerling & J. F. Kearney 1981); Kozbor et al., (1982) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 79: 6651—6655; Jonak et al., (1983) *Hybridoma* 2:124; *Monoclonal Antibodies and Functional Cell Lines* (R. H. Kennett, K. B. Bechtol & T. J. McKearn 1983); Kozbor et al., (1983) *Immunology Today* 4: 72—79.

Normal B lymphocytes producing anti-Id Ab and suitable for the production of an immortal B lymphocyte can be provided by various methods within the skill of the art. For example, an animal, such as a rat or mouse, can be immunized with a monoclonal anti-tumor antibody and B lymphocytes producing anti-Id Ab recovered from the animal's spleen. Human B lymphocytes producing anti-Id Ab can be obtained by immunizing a patient with monoclonal anti-tumor antibody, collecting peripheral blood lymphocytes from the patient, and then inducing *in vitro* the growth of B lymphocytes producing anti-Id Ab by stimulating the culture with the monoclonal anti-tumor antibody. See, e.g., DeFreites et al., (1982) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 79: 6646—6650. The animal or human B lymphocytes producing anti-Id Ab can thus be recovered and immortalized by those of skill in the art. Of course it is understood that those lymphocytes producing anti-Id Ab that present internal images of the tumor cell should be distinguished from B lymphocytes producing anti-Id Ab directed to framework determinants in the idiotypic region.

The method of the present invention as applied to tumors can also be practiced in conjunction with other methods of inducing immunological responses to tumors such as the use of viral oncolysate vaccines as described in U.S. Patent 4,108,983.

The following examples are illustrative of the present invention and are not intended to limit its scope.

Example 1

Monoclonal idiotype antibodies

The following experiments employed mouse monoclonal antibodies 17-1A, C₄2032 and C₄1472, which bind to human gastrointestinal cancer cells, and are described in Herlyn et al., (1979) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 76: 1438—1442 and Koprowski, "Monoclonal Antibodies *In Vivo*," in *Monoclonal Antibodies in Cancer: Proceedings of the Fourth Armand Hammer Cancer Symposium* (B. Boss, R. Langman, I. Trowbridge & Dulbecco 1983). Monoclonal antibody (MAb) C₄2032 has specificity for colorectal carcinoma (CRC)-associated antigen(s) of M_r 180, 160, 50 and 40 K. MAb C₄1472 (IgG2a) has specificity for CRC-associated antigen M_r 50 K. The MAb A5C3 against hepatitis virus was also employed and is described in Wands et al., (1981) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 78: 1214—1218. MAb's 17-1A (IgG2A, kappa light chain) and C₄2032 (IgG2a kappa light chain) were purified from ascites obtained from hybridoma-bearing mice by affinity chromatography on protein A-sepharose column (Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ) as described by Ey et al., (1978) *Immunochemistry* 15: 429—436.

Patients

All patients had metastatic or recurrent gastrointestinal adenocarcinoma and were injected systematically with one dose of a purified sterile, pyrogen-free preparation of MAb 17-1A concentrated from ascites fluid of Balb/c mice per the method disclosed in Sears et al., (1982) *Lancet* 762—765. Of nine patients who received 192 mg or less of MAb 17-1A seven developed anti-mouse globulin antibodies. Of the 20 patients who received 200—1000 mg of monoclonal antibody, three developed anti-mouse globulin antibodies. Sera of three patients of the first group who developed anti-mouse globulin molecules (patient Nos. 07, 08 and 09) and of two patients of the second group (Nos. 14 and 23), were either screened or processed for isolation of anti-idiotypic antibodies. Sera used for isolation of anti-idiotypic antibodies from subject Nos. 07, 08 and 23 were obtained at the time when all three showed the highest concentration of anti-mouse globulin antibodies. Patient No. 08 received a second injection of 130 mg of monoclonal antibody 20 months after the first injection, and serum obtained after this second injection was used in a screening test for the presence of anti-idiotypic antibody.

Preparation of polyclonal anti-idiotypic antibodies

New Zealand white rabbits were injected subcutaneously at multiple sites with 300 µg purified MAb 17-1A emulsified in Freund's complete adjuvant and, 30 days later, boosted intramuscularly with 100 µg of the monoclonal antibody. Sera was collected on day 10 of the secondary response.

Anti-sera was absorbed on immobilized MAb C₄2032 and MAb 17-1A. The purified monoclonal antibodies (30 mg each) were coupled to 2 ml of Affi-Gel 10 (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Richmond, CA). The anti-sera was then sequentially absorbed on MAb C₄2032 and MAb 17-1A immunoabsorbents to remove

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anti-isotypic and anti-idiotypic antibodies, respectively. Absorbed antibodies were eluted with 0.1 M glycine buffer (pH 2.8), immediately neutralized with phosphate buffer, dialyzed against phosphate-buffered saline, and protein quantitated by absorptivity at 280 nm ($E^{1\%}_{280}=14$).

Anti-sera obtained from patients after one injection of MAb 17-1A was also obtained and purified as described above. Sera from subject No. 23, who received 750 mg of MAb 17-1A, and from subjects No. 08 and 07, who received 133 and 125 mg of MAb 17-1A, respectively, were collected at various times after the first injection of antibody. Samples shown by radioimmunoassay analysis to contain antimurine IgG antibody were sequentially absorbed on MAb C₄2032 and MAb 17-1A immunoabsorbents to remove anti-isotypic and anti-idiotypic antibodies, respectively, as described above. The anti-idiotypic antibody isolated from the sera was shown to be human immunoglobulins by binding to ¹²⁵I-labelled anti-human F(ab')₂ fragments. The yield of anti-idiotypic protein from serum samples varied: 13 µg/ml from No. 08; 8.9 µg/ml from No. 07; and 43 µg/ml from No. 23. The largest amount was obtained from No. 23 serum which also showed the highest levels of anti-mouse globulin antibodies.

15 Screening sera for presence of anti-idiotypic antibodies

To screen serum samples for the presence of anti-idiotypic antibody, a competition assay was performed using the rabbit-anti-idiotypic antibody and four human sera pre-incubated with ¹²⁵I-labelled MAb 17-1A.

Polystyrene beads of 1/4-inch (6.35 mm) size (Precision Plastic Ball Co., Chicago, IL) were washed three times with 95% ethynol. The air-dried beads were incubated with a dilution of either rabbit or human anti-idiotypic antibody in 0.02 M sodium tetraborate, pH 8.2. After overnight incubation at 4°C with gentle shaking, the beads were washed three times with phosphate-buffered saline and then incubated for at least three hours at room temperature with phosphate-buffered saline containing 2% bovine serum albumin and 0.04% NaN₃. The beads were then exposed to ¹²⁵I-labelled MAb 17-1A as the reference idiotypic that had been preincubated with the potential source of human anti-idiotypic antibody, i.e., human sera was diluted to 25% concentration in phosphate-buffered saline without Ca⁺⁺ and Mg⁺⁺ and supplemented with 2% bovine serum albumin and 0.04% NaN₃. After an additional overnight incubation, the beads were washed and the radioactivity bound was measured in a gamma counter.

Three of the sera obtained after one injection with monoclonal antibody, (Nos. 23, 09, and 14) showed inhibition of binding of MAb 17-1A that was higher than that of pre-monoclonal antibody injection samples. Binding inhibition values obtained for post-monoclonal antibody serum of patient No. 14 were low as compared to the other two sera, but higher than that for the pre-monoclonal antibody exposure serum of the same subject. Inhibition values for serum obtained from patient No. 08 seven days after he received a second injection of monoclonal antibody were already high.

35 Competition assay for detection of anti-idiotypic

A competition assay was conducted in a manner similar to that described above to determine the binding of isolated anti-idiotypic antibodies to MAb 17-1A, as well as to monoclonal antibodies C₄2032, C₄1472 and A5C3.

The results indicated that the binding of anti-idiotypic antibodies from three sera (Nos. 08, 07 and 23) to MAb 17-1A was significantly higher than to the three other monoclonal antibodies, two of which (C₄2032 and C₄1472) also detect antigenic sites on colorectal carcinoma cells. These sites, however, are different from the sites recognized by MAb 17-1A. The immunoglobulin isolated from sera of all three subjects prior to exposure to MAb 17-1A was concentrated to approximately 2.5 µg/ml and coupled to polystyrene beads. These preparations, however, did not bind any of the monoclonal antibodies tested, indicating the absence of anti-idiotypic antibodies in pre-exposure serum.

Cross-reactivity between human anti-idiotypic antibodies

A competition assay was conducted to determine whether there was cross-reactivity among the human anti-Id sera.

Results of the competition assay, shown below, indicates significant cross-reactivity between the anti-idiotypic sera of patients No. 07 and 23, and slightly less (but still significant) cross-reactivity between the anti-idiotypic sera of patients Nos. 08 and 23. Similar cross-reactivity was found between the anti-idiotypic sera of patient No. 07 and post-monoclonal antibody serum obtained from patient No. 08 (results not shown). These results indicate that the anti-idiotypic antibodies produced by different patients are directed against the same antigenic site.

	1st Antibody	2nd Antibody serum of:	cmp Bound	% of Inhibition of 17-1A MAb binding
5		None	4297	
	Anti-Id 23	07 Pre	4595	0
		Post	1231	71
10		08 Pre	4097	5
		Post	2585	40

15 Epitope detected by anti-idiotypic antibody

Hapten inhibition of binding of human anti-idiotypic antibodies to MAb 17-1A was performed to show that the anti-idiotypic antibodies were directed to the paratope of the idiotypic antibody.

A 3 M KCl extract of SW 1222 cells, a cell line derived from colorectal cancer, was prepared as described in Herlyn et al., (1982) *J. Clin. Immunol.* 2: 135—140. The preparation bound MAb 17-1A, indicating that the material contained the antigen in its soluble form. ¹²⁵I-Labelled MAb 17-1A was incubated with the CRC cell extract and with a 3 M KCl extract of melanoma cells which do not bind MAb 17-1A. The antibody-antigen mixtures were then added to beads coated with anti-idiotypic antibody obtained from patient No. 23 and the binding compared to the binding of the radiolabelled monoclonal antibody alone. These experiments were performed with non-saturating amounts of iodinated monoclonal antibody in order to detect changes in binding with small amounts of competitive haptens. For control purposes, the iodinated MAb 17-1A was mixed with an extract from melanoma cells that was known not to bind MAb 17-1A. The CRC cell extracts in concentrations of 0.1 or 0.5 mg/ml were found to inhibit the binding of the anti-idiotypic antibody from patient No. 23 to iodinated MAb 17-1A by 39% and 68%, respectively. The extract from melanoma cells in concentrations up to 0.5 mg/ml did not significantly affect the monoclonal antibody binding.

This hapten inhibition of the binding reaction indicates the presence of an "internal image" of the CRC epitope on the anti-idiotypic antibody. This is also supported by the fact that the finding that the extract of CRC cells did not bind to the anti-idiotypic antibodies but did bind, as expected, to MAb 17-1A.

35 Production of anti-idiotypic and anti-(anti-idiotypic) antibodies by Human B lymphocytes

Buffy coat cells were obtained from patient Nos. 08 and 23, twenty and five months, respectively, after injection with MAb 17-1A. The cells were stimulated with 10 ng/ml F(ab')₂ fragments of 17-1A *in vitro* as described in DeFreitas et al., (1982), *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 79: 6646—6650. During the following seven days, aliquots of cells were separated into T and B cell populations by rosetting with sheep erythrocytes treated with 2-amino ethylisouronium bromide. See Pellogrino et al., (1975) *Clin. Immunol. & Immunopathol.* 3: 324—333. Both cell populations were stained with F(ab')₂ fragments of 17-1A or anti-influenza monoclonal antibody, and goat anti-mouse Ig-FITC. The cell populations were then subsequently analyzed in a cytofluorograph. In addition, peripheral blood mononuclear cells from the same patient were stimulated with F(ab')₂ fragments of 17-1A or anti-influenza monoclonal antibodies for nine days in a modified Mishell-Dutton culture for specific human Ig production as described in DeFreitas et al., *supra*. Supernatants from these cultures were assayed in a solid-phase enzyme-linked immunoabsorbent assay for specific human IgG (KPL Laboratories, Gaithersburg, MD).

The percentage of lymphocytes that initially bound 17-1A F(ab')₂ of patient No. 08 was 1.2%, and of patient No. 23 was 0.2%. During seven days in culture with MAb 17-1A, the percentage of lymphocytes of patient No. 23 that specifically bound 17-1A F(ab')₂ increased from 0.2 to 13%. All the 17-1A binding cells were present in the B cell population. In addition, after nine days, human anti-MAb 17-1A IgG was detected. Incubation of lymphocytes from the same patient with anti-influenza monoclonal antibody under identical conditions produce no detectable human Ig to either MAb 17-1A or anti-influenza monoclonal antibodies.

In another experiment, human B lymphocytes were stimulated to produce anti-(anti-idiotypic) antibody. B lymphocytes were collected and stimulated *in vitro* as described above, except that the cells were stimulated with autologous anti-idiotypic antibody rather than idiotypic antibody. Anti-(anti-idiotypic) antibodies were produced by stimulated B lymphocytes and these anti-(anti-Id) Ab were shown to identify as epitope on CRC cell extract and on whole cells. Thus, the human immune system will produce anti-tumor antibodies in response to stimulation with anti-idiotypic antibodies.

60 Immortal B lymphocytes producing anti-idiotypic antibody

Various methods of producing immortal B lymphocytes secreting monoclonal antibodies are known in the art. See Kozbor et al., (1983) *Immunology Today* 4: 72—79. Human B lymphocytes secreting anti-(anti-idiotypic) antibody, obtained from peripheral blood lymphocytes as described above, can be immortalized, therefore, by one of skill in the art.

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One method that can be readily employed is immortalization with Epstein-barr virus (EBV). In this method, the normal lymphocytes described above are infected with EBV *in vitro* and immortal cell lines then establish, for example, by limiting dilution on a feeder layer. See, e.g., Kozbor, et al., (1983), *supra*, and references 51—60 cited therein.

5 Another approach is to fuse either the above described anti-Id Ab secreting lymphocytes or an EBV-transformed lymphocyte with a human plasmacytoma or lymphoblastoid fusion partner. For example, an EBV-transformed B lymphocyte secreting anti-Id Ab can be fused with, for example, the human lymphoblastoid cell line KR-4. The desired hybridomas would then be selected for in hypoxanthine-aminopterin-thymidine medium containing ouabain, which eliminates the parental cells. Hybridomas are
10 tested for specific antibody production. Positive hybrids are then cloned, recloned and then propagated in bulk culture or in the peritoneal cavity of an immune-suppressed mammal (e.g., nude mouse). See, e.g., Kozbor et al., (1982) *Proc. Natl. Acade. Sci. U.S.A.* 79: 6651—6655.

The above example is presented for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to limit the invention which is defined solely by the claims.

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Claims

1. A composition for inducing an immunological response to a tumor, comprising anti-idiotypic antibodies which identify an epitope which is the paratope of an anti-tumor antibody.
- 20 2. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the anti-idiotypic antibodies are monoclonal.
3. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the anti-idiotypic antibodies are polyclonal.
4. An immortal B lymphocyte that produces anti-idiotypic antibodies which identify an epitope which is the paratope of an anti-tumor antibody.
5. An immortal B lymphocyte according to Claim 4, which is a hybridoma.
- 25 6. Monoclonal antibodies obtainable from an immortal B lymphocyte according to Claim 4 or 5, and substantially free of other antibodies.
7. Polyclonal anti-idiotypic antibodies which identify an epitope which is the paratope of an anti-tumor antibody, and which are substantially free of anti-isotype antibodies.
8. A method for the production of anti-idiotypic antibodies which identify an epitope which is the
30 paratope of an anti-tumor antibody, which comprises administering an anti-tumor antibody to a heterologous host, and isolating and purifying the desired anti-idiotypic antibodies from the serum of that host.

Patentansprüche

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1. Eine pharmazeutische Zusammensetzung zur Induktion einer immunologischen Antwort auf einen Tumor, enthaltend anti-idiotypische Antikörper, die einen Epitopen erkennen, der der Paratop eines anti-tumoren Antikörpers ist.
2. Eine Zusammensetzung gemäß Anspruch 1, in der die anti-idiotypischen Antikörper monoklonal
40 sind.
3. Eine Zusammensetzung gemäß Anspruch 1, in der die anti-idiotypischen Antikörper polyklonal sind.
4. Ein unsterblicher B-Lymphozyt, der anti-idiotypische Antikörper produziert, die einen Epitopen erkennen, der der Paratop eines anti-tumoren Antikörpers ist.
- 45 5. Ein unsterblicher B-Lymphozyt gemäß Anspruch 4, der ein Hybridom ist.
6. Monoklonale Antikörper, die aus einem unsterblichen B-Lymphozyten gemäß Anspruch 4 oder 5 genommen werden können, und im wesentlichen frei von anderen Antikörpern sind.
7. Polyklonale anti-idiotypische Antikörper, die einen Epitopen erkennen, der der Paratop eines anti-tumoren Antikörpers ist und die im wesentlichen frei sind von anti-isotypischen Antikörpern.
- 50 8. Eine Methode zur Herstellung von anti-idiotypischen Antikörpern, die einen Epitopen erkennen, der der Paratop eines anti-tumoren Antikörpers ist, enthaltend die Verabreichung eines anti-tumoren Antikörpers einem heterologen Wirt, und die Isolierung und Reinigung der erwünschten anti-idiotypischen Antikörper aus dem Serum dieses Wirtes.

Revendications

1. Une composition pour induire une réponse immunologique à une tumeur, comprenant des anticorps anti-idiotypiques qui identifient un épitope qui est le paratope d'un anticorps anti-tumoral.
2. Une composition selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle les anticorps anti-idiotypiques sont
60 monoclonaux.
3. Une composition selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle les anticorps anti-idiotypiques sont polyclonaux.
4. Un lymphocyte B immortel qui produit des anticorps anti-idiotypiques qui identifient un épitope qui est le paratope d'un anticorps anti-tumoral.
- 65 5. Un lymphocyte B immortel selon la revendication 4, qui est un hybridome.

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6. Antic rps monoclonaux pouvant être obtenus à partir d'un lymphocyte B immortel selon la revendication 4 ou 5, et essentiellement exempts d'autres anticorps.

7. Anticorps anti-idiotypiques polyclonaux qui identifient un épitope qui est le parot p d'un anticorps anti-tumoral, et qui sont essentiellement exempts d'anticorps anti-isotypiques.

5 8. Une méthode de production d'anticorps anti-idiotypiques qui identifient un épitope qui est le parotope d'un anticorps anti-tumoral, qui comprend l'administration d'un anticorps anti-tumoral à un hôte hétérologue, et l'isolement et la purification des anticorps anti-idiotypiques désirés à partir du sérum de cet hôte.

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